

Irwin, who, at the age of 88, passed away peacefully at his home in North Syracuse, New York on Wednesday, October 5th, 2011.

Brigadier General Irwin was born in Syracuse on November 4th, 1922, to the late Joseph A. and Violet M. Irwin. He was preceded in death by his wife, Natalie J. Irwin "Noble Nanny" and his sister, Marilyn J. Irwin Boison.

A combat veteran of WWII, he served as commander of the 174th Fighter Wing, (formally the 174th Fighter Group) New York Air National Guard at Hancock Field from January 1st, 1958 until March 13th, 1977. He retired from the New York Air National Guard on August 31st, 1978.

General Irwin's flying career spanned more than 35 years, beginning when he was still attending North Syracuse High School. Working weekends at the old Amboy Airport, he received compensation for his labor in flight instruction.

He began his military service in August of 1942 and entered pilot training the following March. After winning his wings and commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps in May of 1944, he served in the Pacific Theatre of Operations as a fighter pilot flying the P-47 Thunderbolt.

Campaigns in which he participated include the China Offensive, Western Pacific, and the Air Offensive of Japan and the Ryukyus Islands. He was decorated with the Air Medal, the Oak Leaf Cluster, and four battle stars for his wartime service.

Following World War II, General Irwin was an original member and assisted in the organization of the Air National Guard in Syracuse. While commander of the 174th Fighter Wing, General Irwin saw the unit undergo many aircraft conversions and unit changes. It was the first unit to operate jet aircraft in New York State and in 1951, was selected as one of the two units in the country to test a secret program of runway alert to augment the Air Force. The results were so successful that this program is to this day a vital part of the United States' air defense.

In 1960, the 174th was recognized by the National Guard Bureau as the most combat-ready F-86 unit in the country. During the Berlin Crisis in 1961, the 174th was activated and within 30 days, all personnel, planes, and equipment were deployed to Phalsbourg Air Base in France. This was the largest movement of jet fighter aircraft in Europe since World War II. General Irwin led his unit's planes and crews across the northern Atlantic route via Labrador, Greenland, Iceland, Scotland, and on to the mainland of Europe. Despite many dramatic moments, all arrived safely on the continent. The unit was again called up during the Pueblo Crisis and was deployed to Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico.

In addition to his military service, General Irwin was instrumental in linking the 174th Fighter Wing with the local community. He organized a program of community education for planning and zoning actions compatible with aviation growth.

Honors bestowed upon General Irwin are many. General Irwin was awarded the Governor's Trophy in 1960, 1973, and 1976. In addition, he received the first Department of Defense Award for Domestic Action in 1971. Thompson Road through Hancock Air Base now bears his name and is called the "General Curtis Irwin Parkway". In our local com-

munity, General Irwin was named to the North Syracuse School District Wall of Distinction in 1990.

Surviving General Irwin are his children, Laurinda "Laurie" A. Irwin of Cottage Grove, Minnesota; Sheila M. (Lester) Austin of Lafayette, New York; Lisette "Lisa" Damon of North Syracuse; several nieces and nephews; his longtime companion Betty Tryon of Liverpool; and his 174th Fighter Wing Family.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York and a grateful Nation, I thank General Irwin for his service.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ANNA MARIA CHÁVEZ

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anna Maria Chávez and to congratulate her on her appointment as the 19th Chief Executive of Girl Scouts of the USA. Ms. Chávez officially assumes her new role at the Girl Scouts National Council Session/52nd Convention being held this week in Houston, Texas.

I am particularly proud that Ms. Chávez joins GSUSA following an incredibly successful term as Chief Executive of Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas in my home district in San Antonio, Texas. During her tenure, Ms. Chávez oversaw a 20 percent increase in membership in just two years. Quickly recognized for her leadership, Ms. Chávez received the inaugural ATHENA Organizational Leadership Award in 2010 and was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame in March 2011.

As the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I also take great pride in the fact that Ms. Chávez is the first Latina woman to be named the head of Girl Scouts. Her story began in the small town of Eloy, Arizona, where she was raised in a Mexican-American family.

Ms. Chávez holds a law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law and a bachelor's degree in American history from Yale University. Bar admissions include the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, Arizona Supreme Court, and U.S. Supreme Court. Her professional accomplishments are many. Prior to coming to Girl Scouts, she served as deputy chief of staff for urban relations and community development for former Arizona Governor and current U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano. Prior to being appointed as deputy chief of staff, Ms. Chávez served as then Governor Napolitano's director of intergovernmental affairs from 2003 to 2007. She also served as in-house counsel and assistant director for the Division of Aging & Community Services (DACs) at the Arizona Department of Economic Security. Ms. Chávez entered state government after serving as senior policy advisor to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater. Previously, she had been chief of staff to the deputy administrator at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in Washington, D.C. Ms. Chávez also served as chief of staff for SBA's Office of Government Contracting and Minority Enterprise Development.

As she takes the helm at Girl Scouts of the USA, Ms. Chávez will shepherd a dramatic period of change for the organization. This week, Girl Scouts will kick off its 100th Anniversary celebration, designating 2012 as the Year of the Girl. In the coming years, Girl Scouts has plans to promote its award winning Girl Scout Leadership Program, including the exciting new badge book, The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts is also preparing to launch an ambitious new fundraising effort tied to these activities, and to elevate public awareness about girls' unique needs.

As relevant today as it was when it was founded 100 years ago, this organization delivers the best leadership experience for a new generation of girls whose lives—and the opportunities they face—are ever changing. I am confident that Anna Maria Chávez will continue this strong legacy of leadership and service, and look forward to working with her for many years to come.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT—STEPHEN MICHAEL TIMMES

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Stephen Michael Timmes for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Stephen has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

CONGRATULATING THORSEN'S PLUMBING & AIR CONDITIONING ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Thorsen's Plumbing & Air Conditioning Inc. on their 100th Anniversary. This dedicated business continues to bring economic vitality to the region.

On November 11, 1911, Andy Thorsen Sr. started his plumbing business as a one man shop in a shed attached to his first home on 567 High Street in Turlock, California. November 17, 1911, he obtained a city license in the name of "Thorsen's Plumbing" and began working out of his house at 567 High Street. Andy would ride his bicycle to jobs, carrying 200 pound bundles of 20 foot pipe on his shoulder. In 1916, Andy relocated to 214 Lander Avenue with the sign "Andy Thorsen, The Plumber". Andy was the first business person in Turlock to use a horseless carriage for his business, a Model T Ford with special tires for the rough and muddy roads.